

U.S. - mass. - Cambridge

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Fourteenth Annual Report

OF THE

Associated Charities of Cambridge.

NOVEMBER, 1896.

ORGANIZED DECEMBER, 1881.

INCORPORATED JANUARY 16, 1883.

CAMBRIDGE:
E. W. WHEELER, PRINTER,
1896.



OFFICERS, 1896-1897.

President.—REV. EDWARD ABBOTT.

Vice-Presidents.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| CHARLES W. ELIOT. | ARTHUR GILMAN. |
| JAMES B. THAYER. | MRS. CHARLES L. JONES. |
| SAMUEL L. MONTAGUE. | WILLIAM A. BANCROFT. |
| EDMUND REARDON | CALEB H. WARNER. |
| MRS. JOSIAH P. COOKE. | REV. WILLIAM LAWRENCE. |

Secretary and Clerk of the Corporation.—ARTHUR E. JONES.

Treasurer.—HENRY N. TILTON.

Directors.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| REV. EDWARD ABBOTT. | JOHN F. MURRAY. |
| MRS. MARY A. BACON. | MISS LYDIA M. PALMER. |
| MRS. WILLIAM A. BANCROFT. | WILLIAM TAGGARD PIPER. |
| DR. FRANCIS J. BARNES. | MRS. HENRY C. RAND. |
| JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS. | WARREN SANGER. |
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| EDWARD A. COUNIHAN. | MRS. W. W. WELLINGTON. |
| DR. JAMES A. DOW. | MISS ALICE R. WELLS. |
| MISS M. L. DREW. | HENRY N. WHEELER. |
| DR. EDWIN FARNHAM. | CHARLES J. WOOD. |
| CHARLES L. FRENCH. | REV. THEODORE F. WRIGHT. |
| MISS VELMA M. MORSE. | MRS. EDWARD WYMAN. |
| MISS MARIA MURDOCK. | |

Secretary and Treasurer, Ex officiis.

CENTRAL OFFICE

ROOM 2, GRANT BUILDING, 671 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., CAMBRIDGEPORT.

OFFICE HOURS, 9 A. M. TO 12 M.

2 TO 4 P. M.

8 TO 9 P. M. FROM DECEMBER 1ST TO APRIL 1ST.

Telephone Number, 368-2.

MISS MARY L. BIRTWELL, *General Secretary.*

MRS. A. L. CHESLEY, *Registrar.*

MISS MARY I. BREED, *Assistant.*

The Board of Directors meets at the Central Office on the second Thursday of each month at 4 P. M.

OLD CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

Executive Committee.

President.—REV. W. B. KING.

WILLIAM T. PIPER.

MRS. BENJAMIN VAUGHAN.

MISS ALICE R. WELLS.

Secretary.—MRS. J. G. THORP.

MRS. EDWARD WYMAN.

MRS. FRANCIS G. PEABODY.

MRS. J. P. COOKE.

Meets at the Social Union Rooms, 42 Brattle St., on the first and third Mondays of each month at 3.30 P. M.

CAMBRIDGEPORT CONFERENCE.

President.—MRS. M. A. BACON.

Secretary.—MISS S. A. PEAR.

Executive Committee.

Secretary.—MRS. G. F. RICKER.

MISS VELMA M. MORSE.

MISS M. L. DREW.

MRS. D. A. TOWNER.

MISS MARIA MURDOCK.

MISS S. A. PEAR.

MISS M. L. BIRTWELL.

Ways and Means Committee.

MISS M. L. DREW, *Secretary.*

MISS S. A. PEAR.

MRS. M. J. HADLEY.

MRS. A. L. CHESLEY.

J. WATSON HARRIS.

Clothing and Mending Class.

MRS. G. F. RICKER, *Chairman.*

MRS. J. G. BALL.

MRS. L. ROBINSON.

MISS S. A. PEAR.

MISS LYDIA M. PALMER.

MRS. J. N. OSGOOD.

MRS. M. A. BACON.

MRS. LORING.

MRS. M. M. ROGERS.

MISS L. M. CHAMBERLIN.

MISS A. BLISH.

MISS M. E. LINCOLN.

MRS. A. R. WAITT.

MISS LEITA JOHNSON.

MRS. JAMES STEWART.

MISS ESTHER PAUL, *Bookkeeper.*

Committee on Intemperates.

REV. ROBERT ELY.

MRS. JAMES STEWART.

Meets at the Central Office on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 4 P. M.

EAST CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

Pres.—MISS LYDIA M. PALMER. *Sec.*—MISS MABEL F. REYCROFT.

Executive Committee.

MRS. P. W. KNIGHT.

MRS. GEO. H. HOWARD.

MRS. L. A. ECHERAN.

MRS. JOHN PIKE.

MRS. H. N. HOVEY, JR.

MRS. MARTIN DAVIS.

MRS. W. R. ADAMS.

MRS. S. BALDREY.

MISS ELIZA ULMER.

Ways and Means Committee.

REV. S. K. MITCHELL.

REV. ROBERT WALKER.

D. C. ECHERAN.

REV. C. E. RICHARDSON.

GEORGE H. HOWARD.

GEORGE SPENCE.

REV. H. F. FISTER.

J. C. MOOR.

T. F. HADLEY.

Meets in the parlor of the Second Baptist Church, Cambridge Street, corner of Fourth, East Cambridge, on the third Friday of each month at 4 P. M.

NORTH CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

Executive Committee.

President.—MRS. GEORGE S. CHASE.

Vice-President.—MRS. M. E. BROWN.

Secretary.—MRS. M. E. WHITNEY.

MRS. H. C. RAND.

MRS. H. S. FELLOWS.

MRS. CHARLES ROBINSON.

MRS. D. W. BOND.

MRS. W. W. CURTIS.

Meets at the Library of the Universalist Church, Massachusetts Avenue, North Cambridge, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 3 P. M.

Objects of the Associated Charities.

To promote co-operation among charitable agencies and individuals, in order to prevent imposition and duplication of relief.

To obtain and register accurate knowledge of the conditions and needs of the applicants for relief.

To give information concerning applicants, confidentially, to those charitably interested.

To procure employment, if possible ; if not, to obtain suitable assistance for all really needy applicants for relief.

To prevent begging and fraud, and diminish pauperism. Especially to make sure that no children grow up to be paupers.

To encourage thrift, industry, and self-dependence, through friendly intercourse, advice, and sympathy, and to help the poor to help themselves.

To aid in the diffusion of knowledge on subjects connected with the relief of the poor.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF CAMBRIDGE.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

The Directors of the Associated Charities of Cambridge present this their fourteenth annual report for the year ending September 1, 1896.

Since the last annual meeting the records of the Registrar's department have been carefully examined and the duplications of cases that would naturally occur in a period of fourteen years have been eliminated. As the result of such examination we find that the whole number of cases on our files to September, 1896, is 3,646.

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|---|-------|
| Number of cases registered during year | 1,103 |
| New cases registered | 579 |
| The Central Office officials have personally dealt with | 600 |
| The Central Office officials have visited in their homes | 280 |
| Found to be imposters | 40 |
| Individuals making use of our services | 220 |
| Churches and charitable organizations making use of our services | 56 |
| Families regularly visited, Ward I. | 49 |
| “ “ “ Wards II. and IV. | 69 |
| “ “ “ Ward III. | 17 |
| “ “ “ Ward V. | 38 |
| Visitors in Old Cambridge | 33 |
| “ “ Cambridgeport | 33 |
| “ “ East Cambridge | 8 |
| “ “ North Cambridge | 19 |

The calls upon our office during the year have largely exceeded not only in numbers, but also in variety and importance, those of any other year of our history.

The original investigation of all new cases has been made by the officials of the Central Office. Upon their reports action has been based.

Before final action the graver cases and cases presenting new problems have been further considered by a committee formed of delegates from the Board of Directors and from the Ward Conferences called the "Case Committee," which has met nearly once a week during a large portion of the year.

The recommendations of this committee have guided further treatment of the cases both by the Central Office and the Ward Conferences, thus securing uniformity and efficiency in all parts of the city.

In pursuance of the plan outlined in our last report to enable every householder to know at once what to do with persons who asked at his house for work, food, or clothing, coupon tickets were prepared last autumn and distributed generally among the householders of the city. When a person apparently in need applied for assistance a numbered coupon was to be given him to take to the Central Office and a card with the same number, containing the name and, if known, the address of the applicant and the name and address of the sender, was to be mailed to the same place. On receiving either of these the Central Office made an investigation, if it was a new case, and reported the result to the sender. From November 1, 1895 to September 1, 1896, 493 of these coupons were received at the Central Office. Of this number there were thirty instances where several householders had given tickets to the same person, leaving 463 different applicants thus reported. Of the number so referred, 185 came to the office.

A work test was arranged for men in order to find out how many of those who asked for work really wished it and also to require some return to be made for a meal when food was desired. The men were given tickets which entitled them to an opportunity

to work at cleaning mortar from old bricks for one, two, or three hours and at the end to receive an order for a meal proportioned to the time he had worked. Of the number (185) above mentioned as reporting to the office only 37 were willing to work for the meal or clothing they asked for.

Of the persons reported as begging from house to house 152, on investigation, were found to be "transients," that is, persons temporarily in the city, and of these only 9 could be recommended by former employers as worthy of aid, 52 were wholly unsatisfactory, and as to 91 nothing definite could be learned, either from their refusal to give their history or from false information, 36 lodged in Boston and came to Cambridge merely to beg.

There has prevailed in the community for a number of years a dread, lest, if it were a general practice to refuse assistance to all who came in the evening asking for food or money to pay for a night's lodging, some deserving person might be cold or hungry in bitter weather. The request to send all such applicants to the Associated Charities has been met with the objection that the Central Office closed at 4 P. M. and these people always come after that hour. To meet this difficulty, the Central Office was kept open every evening from 8 to 9, from the middle of November to the first of April. During the 20 weeks 9 persons came in the evening, every one of whom could have come just as conveniently in the daytime and not one of whom belonged to the class for whose needs this preparation had been made.

This experience, we feel sure, cannot fail to impress the community with the wisdom of the rule of not yielding to the importunities of the house to house beggars without thorough investigation.

Our Greatest Need.

Probably the first need of Charity work in Cambridge is that the people generally should know without exaggeration what the facts are concerning poverty in the city. It no longer requires proof that the best work among the needy can only be done through association—through hearty coöperation of Churches, Overseers of Poor, Humane Societies and individuals. It is now admitted that to refuse such coöperation (except for special and thoroughly known cases) is to make the problem harder for Charity-workers and more dangerous for the poor.

This readiness of all individuals, and societies and churches to work together toward the common end of lessening social misery is the soul of Associated Charity-Endeavor. If people are patient to learn what the principle means, they will not refuse to act under its guidance. The worst cases at the present moment in our community are those that for years have received help from many different churches and individuals. These are never the cases in which the suffering is greatest or most urgent. They are, however, constantly before the community making their demands at so many points that it is exceedingly difficult to get anything like a fair proportion of social help and sympathy for the far more genuine cases of suffering. The best work of Associated Charity effort in the past year has been to distinguish, by records and classification, between the chronic beggar and the cases of real and pressing need. The community does not realize how many such cases exist among us or how much misery they represent. With an instructed public sympathy these real needs may be met with comparative ease. It is in the hope of securing such sympathy and coöperation that the following questions are put.

Not a day passes without bringing from Boston men who "work" the suburbs as a kind of profession. They sleep in low class lodging-houses in Boston, or in the free Missions,

where it is perfectly easy to get both food and bed. Now, when it is known that such a person is begging about our city and is sent with a coupon to our office, where work at the sewer yard is offered to him, what is to be done in case he refuses to work? An overwhelming proportion refuse the work and then complain to citizens that the Associated Charities refuse all help. It cannot be that the public, knowing the facts, would desire to help this class of cases further.

Again, in case some one, asking for help, gives several false addresses, so that nothing whatever can be found out about him; does the public think it desirable to use the resources of the office to follow up the case in the very teeth of deliberate deceit?

Again, at a time when we have a long list of those out of work living in our own city, shall we try to secure work for a man who has come directly from Connecticut or Rhode Island?

Again, at a time when fathers and mothers of families are in sore need of work shall we try to get places for men and women upon whom no one is depending?

Again, it has been found after long experience in our own and in other countries to be the gravest moral danger to separate an unmarried mother from her child. The one chance of restoration seems to be through the love and care and responsibility for her own child. This is a frequent Associated Charity case and yet both mother and public constantly ask our help under conditions which involve the separation of the mother and child. Unless the case is extremely exceptional, we feel that our office has no moral right to aid under conditions that make the child a public burden and at the same time deprive the mother of her best chances of moral recovery. The opportunities for securing a good place for mother and child together are moreover exceptionally favorable.

It is certain that the public would coöperate in dealing wisely with cases of this type, if the facts were fairly before it. *To get these problems before the community in such clearness that we may all work with some unity and consistency of effort is the one condition of organizing social sympathy so that preventive work may be done.*

This common knowledge of these simple and fundamental problems constantly appearing at the office is just as requisite before we can break through the hopeless mass of chronic and dead-beat cases, and begin to do our proper work—the positive and constructive work upon the hardest and, at the same time, the most hopeful cases. The community would be shocked to know the number and the character of such cases. That 61 families deserted by father or mother during eleven months should have come unsought to our office, gives some hint of the suffering and need of our own city. A deserted mother, with five young children, herself broken in health and harassed by debts and unpaid rent, offers a type of case requiring immediate, wise and efficient help. It may be that very little money is required, but a great deal of time and work is necessary to save this family from pauperism and from the long distress which is as ruinous to the family as it is in the long run costly to the city. An informed public interest could save the best energies of the Associated Charities for cases of this character. Nearly 600 wholly new cases have been sent to the office (or in some way come to its notice) during the present year. With adequate organization of charities, more than one-half of this large number never would have come either to the Overseers or to the Associated Charities. More than half the remainder required temporary counsel or relief only. Something like 100 cases of very real suffering, many of them piteous in their necessity, demanded every whit of time and assistance which our office, with its visitors, could control.

The first need of our work is, therefore, that the public should know the real character of the problems with which we deal. A few out of many possible illustrations have here been given in the hope that all individuals, Churches and Associations in Cambridge may unite in a hearty spirit of coöperation in order that the poverty and distress amongst us may be generously or effectively met.

In closing we cannot too highly commend the wise, faithful and sympathetic labors of the officials of the Central office. Miss Birtwell, as General Secretary; Mrs. Chesley, as Registrar,

and Miss Breed, as assistant, and would thank the Police Department of the City for ready and effective assistance in many instances and the Overseers of the Poor for a liberal use of their Records.

For the Directors,

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| JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS, | } | <i>Committee.</i> |
| WILLIAM TAGGARD PIPER, | | |
| HENRY N. WHEELER, | | |
| ARTHUR E. JONES, | | |

Old Cambridge Conference.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The annual report of Ward I must necessarily be somewhat imperfect and unsatisfactory, as the Secretary has only the notes of a part of the Conferences held during the winter of 1895-96. There are no records of the meetings held previous to December, but from December 2 to June 15, there were held thirteen meetings with an average attendance of twelve. There were about thirty-six visitors on our list.

The annual meeting was held on December 2, somewhat later than usual, and the following officers were elected: President: Rev. W. B. King, Executive Committee: Mrs. B. Vaughan, Miss A. R. Wells, Mrs. F. G. Peabody, Mrs. Edward Wyman, Mr. W. T. Piper, Mr. J. G. Brooks, and *ex-officio*, Mr. F. S. Child, General Secretary. Mrs. J. G. Thorp was reappointed Ward Secretary, as since the previous March, the work of the Secretary had been done at the Central Office.

The Executive Committee, in turn, appointed the following sub-committees.

COMMITTEE ON INTEMPERATES.

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. C. H. Warner. | Mr. E. M. Parker. |
| Rev. W. B. King. | Mr. J. G. Thorp. |

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

MENDING CLASS.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. C. E. Hubbard, <i>Chairman</i> . | |
| Mrs. R. W. Willson. | Mrs. George E. Saunders. |
| Miss Clara Howe. | |

They submitted the following report.

"The Mending Class began December 11, 1895, and ended April 29, 1896, a total of twenty weeks. The number of women was eleven; average attendance, nine.

During that time there were mended and given out about two hundred and seventy garments, in different states of preservation. The women were very faithful in their attendance, only staying away on account of illness or work. All agree that it is a great help to them, as clothes are the hardest things to procure. We must thank our friends for their kindness in sending us old clothes, and hope that they will remember us next fall."

The experiment was tried, this winter, of having the Conferences held at the Central Office, as there we had the advantage, not only of the presence of the General Secretary and Assistants, but also of easy access to the records and reports of old cases. After trying it for some months, however, some dissatisfaction was expressed at the inconvenience of coming so far, and, early in March, it was voted to hold the Conferences, as before, at the Social Union rooms in Old Cambridge; and to have the General Secretary, or some representative of the office present at the meetings if possible, but for the executive committee to hold its meetings at the Central Office. This plan was carried out during the remainder of the year.

Besides all the permanent cases, and cases left over from the year before, we had about twenty new cases, most of which were supplied with visitors, and required more, or less, constant visiting. A few of these were not in Ward I, but as our Ward has a larger proportion of visitors than the others, we are very glad to relieve the pressure upon our sister wards, when we can do so without neglecting our own cases.

One of these outside cases proved of great interest and finally turned out most satisfactorily. The family consisted of a man and his wife and five children, strangers, who had come from Canada in the fall in search of work, and had no friends here. The man was an engineer by trade, with good references, but had been out of work for several months; the woman was ill, and

when the case was reported to the Associated Charities, the family seemed utterly destitute.

A visitor was appointed who obtained aid for them as seemed best, without doing too much, and helped the man to get odd jobs, so that, for some weeks, they just managed to get along.

Then the man, with the endorsement and assistance of the visitor, got a good situation as engineer, at \$18.00 a week, which enabled them to live much more comfortably and pay off some of their debts. Unfortunately, this did not last much more than two months, when the man suddenly lost his place, and their plight was as bad as ever. Finally, in conference, it was thought best to try and get them back among their friends in Canada, and on the application of the visitor, the State agreed to pay their travelling expenses back and to take charge of seeing them off. A little money was collected privately, so that they should not arrive entirely destitute, without anything to begin with, and finally they got safely started. At last accounts, the visitor had had a letter expressing their gratitude to her, for what she had done for them; relating the trials of their journey, their joy at getting home again, and their more cheerful prospects for the future, and signed by all the family, in token of their recognition.

As yet they have not returned on our hands.

As we begin on a new season of work, we hope we may have more Visitors and more enthusiasm than ever before.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNIE L. THORP,
Secretary.

Cambridgeport Conference.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

During the winter of 1895-96 the Cambridgeport Conference, wards two and four, has held eighteen meetings, at each of which our President, Mrs. W. W. Wellington, has occupied the chair. Our list of visitors numbers thirty, with an average attendance of fifteen. About one hundred cases have been reported, a small percentage of these being entirely new to the conference; others have been upon the list for some time, requiring occasional visits with advice and assistance over hard places; while some are very old, chronic cases which we have always with us, and shall have, undoubtedly, while the subjects live—cases of people who cannot apparently get out of their poverty, and are unwilling to go where, perhaps, they would be better cared for, but so shrink from hearing of the Almshouse, that the visitor manages to carry them along, hoping for better things in the future. Of the new cases some are caused by worthless husbands and fathers, who have left their families to suffer from their indifference or dissipation; a very hard class to deal with, constantly bringing before us the difficult problem, how can such cases be met, when those who are willing to do well are so constantly brought and kept down by the unwilling and worthless? Our work has been made much easier this winter by the Special Case Committee, into whose hands many of the harder cases, which require more earnest or prompt action, have come, thus giving our visitors more time and fewer calls.

Our Sewing and Mending Class has been very successful this winter, and through the earnest and seemingly untiring efforts of its excellent committee, has accomplished a most satisfactory work. With a membership of eighty-eight women, and a large average of these constantly in attendance, and the distribution of

twelve hundred and ninety-five garments, besides many useful household articles, one can hardly conceive of the work which this committee have accomplished. The women themselves, certainly give evidence by their constant attendance how much they enjoy the meetings.

One of the committee one day, meeting a poor woman whose cares at home would seem too great for her to spare one afternoon a week, said to her: "And do you still go to the Sewing Class?" "Oh yes," she replied, "they can't take that away from me; it is my one picnic for the whole year." This answer may perhaps explain why so many are anxious to join the Class, although complaint is constantly heard that some are in attendance whose material needs do not require their presence. Perhaps the moral and entertaining influence of the school may be of sufficient value to warrant admitting them. We certainly do feel that those who have our work most at heart, labor for the best interests of the poor, be it material or moral.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY A. BACON.

Secretary.

East Cambridge Conference.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The East Cambridge Conference has held nine meetings during the past year at the Ladies' Parlor of the Baptist Church, corner of Fourth and Cambridge Streets. The time of meeting was decided upon as the third Thursday in the month, at 4 P. M.

The officers for the past year were and are President, Miss Lydia Palmer; Secretary, Miss Mabel Reycroft; Official Board, Mrs. George Howard, Mrs. P. W. Knight, Mrs. Fanny Cabot, Mrs. Baldrey, Mrs. W. R. Adams, Miss Ulner, Mr. J. C. Moore, Mr. George Howard.

The average attendance has been eight, five ladies and three gentlemen.

Sixteen families have been visited, all of whom are doing well at the present time.

During the year one of our members donated to our Relief Fund, the proceeds of a minstrel show amounting to \$40.35.

The expenses from March 30 to Sept. 28, 1896, have been \$23.59.

M. F. REYCROFT.

Secretary

North Cambridge Conference.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF CAMBRIDGE : —

I present to you herewith the Report of the work of the Ward V Conference for the year ending October, 1896.

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| Number of meetings held within the year | 16 |
| Average attendance | 12 |
| Families dealt with by Conference | 38 |
| Visitors | 19 |

We have entered upon the eleventh year of our organization as a Conference, and look back with a degree of satisfaction as we note the results of our labors.

In discouragements and disappointments we have shared the lot of those who try to improve the condition of their fellow men. However, we have the gratification of knowing that some lives have been made better by our efforts in their behalf. We have been a feeble band of workers, almost unknown to the benevolent people and to the needy ones in Ward V, and the most sanguine members have sometimes felt that we were only "a rope of sand." Good results in a few cases have encouraged a spirit of hopefulness in all our work, knowing that our part is to sow the seed. The reports of the visitors the past year show they have kept up the interest in their families and have done faithful work, and our hearts have been strengthened by the accession of new and faithful workers. The most of the families under our care—even under present conditions—may be classed as hopeful. There are several families where the visitors are unable to check their downward course, and to make matters worse, occasionally an unwise friend will put an appeal for the family into the newspapers, which will bring money, food, and clothing, and make them more helpless and unreasonable than before. Then they turn to us

expecting, and some cases almost demanding, prompt and liberal aid, and to convince this class of people that work of any kind, even with the smallest compensation, is better than idleness with charity, requires sound judgment, patience, and energy on the part of the visitor.

One of our most satisfactory cases has been a French family, the husband, a cigar maker and out of work, family destitute. The man finally applied for a laborer's place on the water-works, and went into the trench to dig — although unused to hard work and suffering from an aggravated form of hernia. Another interesting case is a widower with four small children. Relief was given the family during his illness with pneumonia and the case discharged. A family was dependent upon charity for several months. The husband having given up a good situation to please a caprice of his wife. A situation as janitor was secured for the man, and the family made self supporting.

Some of our visitors have been quite successful in finding work for their families and thus placing them beyond the need of relief.

A woman with two children arrived in Cambridge, a stranger, to find a son already settled here unwilling or unable to help her. The visitor persuaded her to return to Canada, instead of becoming a charge on the city.

Two children were sent to Children Island for two weeks to recover from sickness. Thanksgiving dinners were sent to several families.

We have distributed clothing to several families who are otherwise self-supporting.

We have provided an unusual number of surgical appliances during the year, and several cases, receiving hospital treatment, have looked to the Conference to supply medicine.

We have provided pure milk for some sick babies. These are small matters to report, but the work of the Associated Charities is made up of small things.

Our Ward V Day Nursery re-opened at 141 Reed Street, March 13. The matron is a faithful and competent woman who

has separated from a worthless husband. Before her appointment as matron, she had, for some time, been visited by the Conference — and at the recommendation of the visitor had received much needed treatment at the Cambridge Hospital. She is now in good health and able to provide a comfortable home for herself and her three children. At the Day Nursery we care for children under the kindergarten age, whose mother is obliged to work out, when there is sickness not contagious in the home and where there is a younger child.

We hope soon to make our rooms headquarters for a Boy's Reading Room and Home Library and Stamp Savings.

One of the matron's sons was a member of the Vacation School and was so interested that he carried lunch so as to stay and work. He made a skirt-board for his mother and other useful things.

In closing our report we would acknowledge the help and stimulus we have received from the Central Office and "The Willing Circle of King's Daughters."

Respectfully submitted,

MARY E. WHITNEY,

Secretary.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF CAMBRIDGE.

21

HENRY N. TILTON, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF CAMBRIDGE.

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|---------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| DR. | | | | | |
| 1895 | | | | | |
| Nov. 19 | To Balance on hand | . | . | . | \$ 290.35 |
| | " Contributions in November | . | . | . | \$387.73 |
| | " " " December | . | . | . | 461.00 |
| 1896 | " " " January | . | . | . | 859.00 |
| | " " " February | . | . | . | 959.00 |
| | " " " March | . | . | . | 584.50 |
| | " " " April | . | . | . | 197.33 |
| | " " " May | . | . | . | 5.00 |
| | " " " June | . | . | . | 30.00 |
| | " " " July | . | . | . | 50.00 |
| | " " " September | . | . | . | 6.00 |
| | | | | | <u>3,539.56</u> |
| | | | | | <u>\$3,829.91</u> |

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|------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| CR. | | | | | |
| 1896 | | | | | |
| | By Amount paid for Salaries | . | . | . | 2,428.34 |
| | " " " " Printing and Postage | . | . | . | 218.60 |
| | " " " " Office expenses, etc. | . | . | . | 154.19 |
| | " " " " Rent of Office | . | . | . | 200.01 |
| | " " " " Annual Meeting exp. | . | . | . | 5.00 |
| | " " " " Collections | . | . | . | 115.20 |
| | " " " " Office Furniture | . | . | . | 131.12 |
| | " " " " Rent of Telephone | . | . | . | 51.28 |
| | | | | | <u>\$3,303.74</u> |
| | " Balance on hand | . | . | . | 526.17 |
| | | | | | <u>\$3,829.91</u> |

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The Associated Charities of Cambridge.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

OBJECTS.

The objects of this Society are, first, to secure the co-operation of the existing charitable agencies in Cambridge in effecting a systematic registration of all cases receiving charitable aid, in order to prevent imposition and to render to deserving applicants the most discriminating help; and, second, to organize a system of friendly visiting among the poor, with the aim of diminishing pauperism by raising the poor to self-help.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERS.

This Society shall consist of those persons who have signed the original agreement of association, and of such of the following persons as may be willing to join:—

His Honor, the Mayor of Cambridge, the members of the City Board of Health, the City Physician, Asst. City Physician, the Overseers of the Poor, and their agents and visitors, the Chief of Police, the ministers of all churches in the city of Cambridge, the officers, agents and visitors of all charitable associations and managers and dispensers of charitable funds who may coöperate with this society, the members of those subdivisions of this society which may be organized as Ward Conferences, such active, honorary or corresponding members as the Board of Directors of this Society may elect, and for each year all persons who shall pay to this Society or to one of its subdivisions the sum of one dollar for that year, or for life all who shall so pay twenty-five

dollars at any one time, provided that the person so paying shall request the Society to enroll his name as annual or life member, as the case may be.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, three or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, who shall be clerk of the corporation, a Treasurer, and a Board of Directors consisting of not less than eight members, including those who are members *ex officio* as below provided.

ARTICLE IV.

CHOICE OF OFFICERS.

The President shall be chosen by the Board of Directors from their own number. All the other officers shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting of the Society.

The Treasurer and Secretary shall be members *ex officio* of the Board of Directors. A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V.

POWERS OF DIRECTORS.

The Board of Directors shall have the general oversight and control of the affairs of the Society.

Three members shall constitute a *quorum* at any meeting thereof.

ARTICLE VI.

WARD CONFERENCES.

The Board of Directors shall cause to be organized, in each ward of the city of Cambridge, so far as they may deem it advisable, a Ward Conference, and shall direct its work.

ARTICLE VII.

MEETINGS.

The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Tuesday of November in each year, and due notice of such meeting shall be published in two papers in the City of Cambridge at least one week prior to the day fixed.

Special meetings may be called at any time by order of the Board of Directors, and shall be so called at the request of fifteen members of the Society, and due notice shall be given by notice published as above.

Fifteen members of the Society shall constitute a *quorum* at any annual or special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

These by-laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the Society provided that the notice of the meeting shall state that an amendment is proposed.

